

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of January 21, 2010**

The January meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, January 21, 2010 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Bob Carter.

Present: Commissioners Brian Baker (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Bob Carter, Tim Duffy, George Foster, Ken Kroko, Barbara Miller-Richards, George Solley, and Susan Tyler. Absent: Commissioner Charles McDaniel. Also in attendance: Robert Antozzi and Patricia Sparks.

I. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of December 10, 2009 were unanimously approved.

II. **Public Comment:** James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, addressed the Commissioners with several concerns. James Lawrence distributed a memo from the City Manager in reference to the Clean and Green Committee's participation with trees in the city parks. James clarified the memo stating that the Green Committee is the tree committee for the parks. James also requested that the Commission concentrate on placing benches in the Riverfront Park.

III. **Communications from the Director:** The Commissioners reviewed the following reports:

Financial Report – December 2009 – Dr. Antozzi reported that First Night did make revenue.

Sports Report – December-January 2010

Leisure Report – January-February 2010

The follow-up Report

Ltr. from Bill Rush to Wendy Stone

IV. **Noteworthy Dates:** The Commissioners reviewed upcoming programs and trips. No discussion.

V. **Old Business:**

A. **Pathways** – Dr. Antozzi reported they are continuing to work on the Heritage Trail. All environmental issues have been addressed and we are awaiting reports.

- B. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Partnership** – Dr. Antozzi reported that the City continues to receive an updated set of plans for the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation ballpark. The exact location of the Administration and Maintenance Building on the construction plans are being discussed with the Foundation. Construction is on schedule for spring 2010.
- C. Riverfront Park** – No new information is available. Commissioner Baker asked about the issue of benches brought up by James Lawrence. Could this issue be rectified by allowing memorial benches to be purchased and placed in the Riverfront Park? Dr. Antozzi agreed that memorial benches would be an option once the park construction gets to that point. Dr. Antozzi reported that the chain link fence is temporary.
- D. Policy on Alcohol at DHCC** – Commissioner Baker reported he was unable to schedule a speaker from the ABC Board to address the Commissioners this evening. He then presented a document outlining the licenses available by the Virginia Department of Alcohol Beverage Control. The document was then given to the Secretary. More information is forthcoming on liability issues, on who is responsible in answering questions and concerns for renters wanting to serve alcohol at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.
- E. Youth Sports Policy and Procedures** – Commissioner Baker reported that he had received good feedback from the distribution of that policy to the coaching community. Most coaches responded that the team placement policy and procedure read as though this will be the end of dynasty teams. The coach's responses were favorable and positive. Dr. Antozzi will e-mail the final copy of the Youth Sports Policy to the Commissioners. Commissioner Baker requested scheduling a meeting with George Foster and Parks and Recreation Staff to review the document prior to the February Commission Meeting.
- F. Dixon Park Policy/Facility Use Contract** – The Commissioners received an updated Dixon Park Policy which included most of the recommendations that were discussed at the December 10, 2009 meeting. Dr. Antozzi reported that he had discussed the possibility of increasing the field rental fees with Mike Ward. The fees are established through the fall of 2010. Dr. Antozzi discussed with the Commission Mike's recommendations on increasing fees. The Commissioners recommended looking at establishing fees on an hourly basis. The Commissioners also recommended having a field rental form for soccer and

one for field hockey. Commissioner Tyler requested that the revision date be on the bottom of document.

G. Pool Discussion – Dr. Antozzi reported that the City is currently working on the 2011 budget. The pool manager position is a concern for the City Manager and Parks and Recreation Staff. However, until the budget is somewhat formalized the pool manager position will remain open. The Commissioners also discussed the opening and closing of the pool. Dr. Antozzi reported on several issues that the pool encountered last year such as computer problems that will be addressed this year prior to the opening of the pool. The Commissioners will receive an updated Pool Policy by e-mail. Take off agenda.

VI. New Business:

A. General Park Policy – The Commissioners received a General Park Policy that included the Riverfront Park and to streamline all the general park policies. The corrections/additions were highlighted in yellow. Several recommendations were made by the Commissioners and noted by the Director and Secretary. Dr. Antozzi reported that the Parks and Recreation Staff is struggling with the Riverfront Policy due to other City Departments scheduling events at the park. Wendy Stone is serving on a committee with Karen Hedelt, Interim Director, Economic Development and Tourism and a representative from the Police Department in the development of a Special Events Permit. Issues the Committee is currently addressing are: the need in scheduling Parks and Recreation staff for events and who will be responsible for paying staff, scheduling of events, the closing of city streets, etc. The Commissioners discussed the General Park Policy; however, they agreed that the policy should read: *"Please refer to each individual park policy that is specific to that park."* The Secretary was directed to place the General Park Policy under "Old Business" for the February 18, 2010 meeting.

B. Sharing Information Between Public Meetings – In an effort to give the Commissioners more time to address business concerns, Staff would like the Commissioners to e-mail any questions that they have in reference to the monthly reports so that the appropriate person can respond. This will help to save time during the meetings. The response from Staff will be in the form of an e-mail to all Commissioners. Please do not send your questions to the Recreation Commissioners. Commissioner Baker asked that the questions or items that you would like to place on an agenda for a subsequent meeting be sent directly to Staff and they will distribute that information electronically by e-mail to the

Recreation Commissioners. In addition, we need to be aware that e-mail and text have made it very easy for us to inadvertently have discussions by e-mail. Please refrain from any commentary between Commissioners until the next meeting. Please direct any questions and concerns to Dr. Antozzi, he will then address the proper staff and respond to all Commissioners.

VII. Commission Concerns and Topics:

Commissioner Tyler stated that when she called the cancellation line in December during the winter storm to make sure it was working it said that the fields will not be in use October 27. She was told by staff that someone had to be physically here in the building in order to make changes on the cancellation line. In addition, several times Commissioner Tyler has left messages on extension 201 and it is at least a day before she gets a response. Dr. Antozzi stated that it is going on twelve years that we have been trying to get a new phone system.

Commissioner Foster thanked Parks and Recreation Staff for their hard work.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Approved by the Recreation Commission

 2/25/10
Robert Antozzi, Director Date

Next Commission Meeting Thursday, February 18, 2010.